

HGAP PROJECTS MATRIX: DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

TARGET POPULATIONS

At-Risk of Homelessness

Persons who are about to be released from prison, jail, or a mental health facility and have no place to return to; families or youth who live in precarious situations and are unlikely to become stable; persons who are in danger of being evicted from their current housing. (HGAP Guidelines)

Chronically Homeless

In general, a chronically homeless person is a disabled individual or family who has been continuously homeless for over one year. (HUD)

Court Programs

Housing programs that prevent people with misdemeanors from being incarcerated because they have no address. (COM)

DOC/Jail/Other Institutional Releases

Housing programs for people released or about to be released from prisons, hospitals, mental health institutions, substance abuse rehabilitation facilities, etc. who have no place to go upon release. (COM)

Families

Homeless families include persons who are pregnant or have one or more children under the age of 18. Homeless families whose only children are at or over the age of 18 and under the age of 21 may qualify for HGAP assistance if:

- a. The adult children are living with the applicant family, and
- b. They can provide proof that the adult children are enrolled in high school, **and**
- c. The family is otherwise eligible for HGAP assistance.

Pregnant or parenting youth under the age of 18 may qualify as independent families if they are eligible for HGAP.

Persons temporarily absent from the home may be counted as family members. A family whose only children are temporarily absent from the home may participate in the program when there is a documented likelihood that a child will be returned to their custody within 30 days of their admission to the program. Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. (COM THOR Guidelines)

Mentally Ill

People with disorders characterized by disturbances in a person's thoughts, emotions, or behavior. The term mental illness can refer to a wide variety of disorders, ranging from those that cause mild distress to those that severely impair a person's ability to function. (Encarta Encyclopedia)

Substance Abuse

Persons who excessively consume or misuse substances for the sake of their non-therapeutic effects on the mind or body, especially drugs or alcohol (Encarta Encyclopedia)

Veteran

A former member of the armed services. (Encarta Word English Dictionary.)

Youth or Young Adults

Overnight Youth Shelter Program (federal): persons between the ages of 13 and 17.

Independent Youth Shelter Program (state): persons who are aging out of the foster care system, starting at age 17. (COM program guidelines.)

HOUSING TYPE**Clean and Sober**

Housing which is operated as a living arrangement to provide an alcohol and drug free environment, who seek a living environment in which to remain clean and sober. (Borrowed in part from the California Senate Health Committee.)

Deposits, First/Last Month's Rent, Short-Term RA

(RA=Rental assistance)

Housing Retention/Homelessness Prevention

Programs designed to keep people at risk of homelessness housed in their existing homes. (COM)

Low-Barrier/Harm Reduction

Low-barrier: housing for "hard-to-house" populations, including but not limited to persons with bad credit histories, substance abusers, convicted felons, or sex offenders. (COM)

Harm reduction: A housing model that allows individuals with chronic substance-abuse problems who are unable to achieve sobriety to get and stay housed in spite of active use. (Corporation for Supportive Housing)

Permanent Supportive Housing

Programs that offer permanent, affordable housing linked to health, mental health, employment and other support services. Common essential elements include:

- Housing is permanent, meaning each tenant may stay as long as they pay rent and comply with the terms of the lease
- Housing is affordable, with no more than 30-50% of household income applied to rent

- Housing is targeted to households who need services in order to maintain housing and there is prioritization of people who have been homeless for long periods of time or experienced repeated cycles of homelessness
- Tenants have access to an array of support services that are intended to support housing stability, recovery and resiliency; but participation in support services is not a requirement for tenancy. (Building Changes)

Project-Based Housing

Housing where rental assistance stays with the unit if the tenant moves, so that the new tenant receives the assistance. (COM)

Scattered Site TBRA or Master Leasing

Scattered-site: Housing units that are not located at one single location, where the tenant-based rent assistance (TBRA) follows eligible tenants to new units.

Master leasing: A legal contract in which a third party (other than the actual tenant) enters into a lease agreement and is responsible for tenant selection and rental payments. (HomeBase)

Transitional

A project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate support services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months. (HUD) In the HGAP, the length of time a person resides in transitional housing varies.

PROGRAM MODELS

ACT/PACT/FACT

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT): a service-delivery model that provides case management, crisis intervention, medication monitoring, social support, assistance with everyday living needs, access to medical care, and employment assistance for people with mental illness. (Corporation for Supportive Housing and King County)

Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT): a service-delivery model that provides comprehensive locally-based treatment to people with serious and persistent mental illnesses who are frequent users of psychiatric hospitals.

Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT): a community-based program that provides intensive case management and mental health treatment to individuals who have a severe mental illness and significant involvement in the corrections system. (Multiple sources, including the King County HGAP)

Housing First/Rapid Re-Housing

Housing First: The goals of Housing First programs are to quickly house people who are homeless in permanent housing settings, to provide on-going supportive services as needed to ensure tenants' housing stability, and to ultimately assist tenants on the path toward recovery and independence. (Corporation for Supportive Housing)

Rapid Re-Housing: a program that helps individuals experiencing homelessness locate housing in the community, negotiate with landlords and provide home-based case management to

promote housing retention and link families with needed services. Common essential elements include:

- Early and consistent screening to assess the clients' immediate and long-term needs
- Aggressive landlord outreach and housing search assistance
- Tailored and flexible financial assistance to help clients rent permanent housing
- Home-based case management services (for a transitional time of 6-12 months)
- Referral for and assistance with linking households to support services that already exist in the community (Building Changes)

One-Stop HRC/Single Point of Entry

In general, one central location where local consumers can find information and assistance, assessment and screening, case management and care/service, housing, and coordination of services. (Healthcare Association of New York State.)

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Employment

Job development, placement, training, retention, etc. (COM)

Landlord incentives or risk mitigation fund

Any successful housing assistance program that has the buy-in and cooperation of local landlords. Many program administrators offer incentives to encourage landlords to participate in the program, such as conducting participant credit and background checks, guaranteeing payment of the subsidized portion of the rent to the landlord on behalf of the tenant, and monitoring the compliance of participants to program requirements. Some agencies offer monetary incentives for landlords to participate, or create a risk mitigation fund that could be used to reimburse landlords for costs to repair physical damages beyond normal wear and tear, for extraordinary operating costs or rental losses, etc. (Portland Housing Development Center; Philadelphia Housing Authority)